Edinburgh.
Decr. 2. 1845.

Dear brethren,

Your interesting letter was laid before our Association, at its first meeting this session, and we hasten to reply. We feel grateful for your expressions of interest in & sympathy for us & our Church. We regard it as not one of the smallest blessings which the great Head of the Church has been pleased to vouchsafe to us, in the position ~~which~~ of a protesting Church which we have been called under Providence to occupy, that the sympathies of Christians of other denominations & of other lands, have been summoned into lively exercise towards us. Nor, we trust, has the frequency of such proofs of affectionate interest lessened our value for them. They were doubtless most acceptable and encouraging during our protracted struggle for the spiritual & hereditary liberties of ~~the~~ our Church, and especially at the critical period of the disruption when the future was at best uncertain, and when faith was mingled with much trembling; & now that the great Head of the Church has given us enlargement, has rebuked our fears and more than realized our fondest anticipations, — shall we cease to prize them? Let us hope rather, that softened & chastened by the trials through which we have passed, we may value them more highly and return them more cordially than before. How delightful and endearing is the bond of sympathy which unites the members of Christ, however much their opinions may vary on some points, & however remote their terrestrial positions may be. Let us, dear brethren, acknowledge its power and act under its influence. If this principle were sufficiently recognized and sufficiently operative to cause united prayer to ascend from all the different branches of the Church, and from every quarter of the globe, to the throne of grace, through the mediation of him who hath said that even "if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them, of my Father which is in Heaven"; — what great things might be achieved, — what rich blessings might be obtained for the Church and for the world. You have doubtless heard of the movement towards union among the Christians of this country. The pleasing results of the preliminary meeting held some months ago in Liverpool, lead us to look forward

Hoping to hear from you ere long, & to learn that the good works you mention are progressing

We remain, dear brethren,
Yours in the bonds of the gospel of peace
In name of the New College Missiony. Assoc. Edinbro.
John Mackintosh. President

Address to Mr. D. McLaren
Secretary - -
12 Nelson St.
Edinburgh.

from his hands, the "slave is raised to man", & that foul stain which disfigures the otherwise glorious annals of your county is blotted out for ever.

with eager expectation to the General Conference to be held in London next June. Members of no fewer than nineteen evangelical denominations assembled at the Liverpool meeting, and were almost surprised to find themselves of one mind, as they dwelt on the numerous points on which they agreed, and reflected how comparatively few & unimportant were those on which they differed. Several of the continental churches have expressed their concurrence in the proceedings of that meeting, and their hearty acquiescence in the proposed scheme for union. The experiment is an interesting one, and at present seems to promise the best results. May He who exhorted his disciples to cultivate unity as a proof to the world of his Divine mission, and without whose blessing, man's fairest schemes must come to nought, - smile upon it. It was with our beloved Church, the proposal for union originated, and we cannot but hope ~~it will soon be proved~~, that instead of promoting division and disunion as was alleged by some, she shall be eminently blessed by God in counteracting these very evils.

We have dwelt long on this subject, but we deeply feel its importance. It is becoming one of the grand topics of the times in which we live, and is daily challenging more of the attention of the Church. And we have dwelt on it the rather, because we are persuaded that our christian brethren on the other side of the Atlantic, will lend us their willing cooperation, in promoting an object of such vast importance, and big with such momentous results. The times are critical: the enemies of our faith are many, and are quickly becoming combined; they are surveying their ranks, they are counting their forces, they are marshaling their troops for the battle, and already the war-note may be heard in the distance. If the common foe are to be met, what a call is there for union, on the part of those who are on the Lord's side. Let us beware, lest the Lord who makes use of means in the advancement of His cause and in the defence of His Church, permit us torn and distracted by intestine dissensions, to fall an easy prey, into the hands of the enemy. But eventually victory will be on the side of the Lord's people: He who is mighty will triumph. Let us, then, sustained by this animating assurance, be found united & prepared to take our part in the impending conflict.

But it is now time to give you the information you desire, respecting our Association and our College. Our Missionary Association has opened this session under favourable auspices. We are no longer clogged, as we were last year, by a pending law-suit and the other embarrassments consequent upon the disruption of the Society; and you will be glad to hear that we have already acquired a library fully equal to that which was so recently taken from us. We hope, therefore, to be able to give a more undivided attention to the great objects we have in view, viz, the promotion of the Missionary cause in general, and more especially of a missionary spirit among the students. Our meetings have hitherto been well attended, and we trust the presence of the Highest has not been wholly denied us. Mr. Braidwood, the missionary whom we were honored to send out to Madras and with whom we maintain a close connexion, still labors in that field, and has in conjunction with his brethren there, we rejoice to say, been instrumental in doing not a little ~~good~~ for the cause of Christ. By the latest accounts from Madras, we are informed that three native converts, who have devoted themselves to the work of evangelization among their benighted countrymen, are almost ready for licence. And how much good shall be effected by such an agency, may somewhat depend, dear brethren, on your prayers which we crave on their behalf, and ours.

Our "Hall" is very full this winter. With regard to Professors we are highly favored. We have indeed to lament the removal of our late Professor of Church-History, whose deep piety, profound learning & uniform amiability, procured for him at once, the esteem, the admiration & the love of all. But his chair is ably filled by Dr. Cunningham who must be known to you by the visit he lately paid your country. And his (Dr. C's) chair thus vacated, is occupied by Dr. Buchannan of whose thorough acquaintance with theological science, & of whose chaste refined & lofty style of thought, the best certificate is to be found in the works that have issued from his pen. The other Professors of ~~the~~ theological faculty, with our venerable

Chalmers at their head remain unchanged. — We trust that not a few may issue from the college of our church, prepared with a preparation which man cannot supply, to be champions on the Lord's side among the heathen. Since we last wrote you, one of our number, Mr Hislop, has gone to central India, to found a mission at the important station of Nagpore. Another, Mr Thomson, has devoted himself to preach the glad tidings of salvation, to the lost sheep of the house of Israel on the continent. Several Jews also, who were studying in our Hall, will probably soon be ready to return to their own people: oh that they may be the means of removing the veil from the darkened understandings of many of their brethren according to the flesh. It may also be interesting to you to learn, that a most promising young man ~~from~~ a native of Bombay, is prosecuting his studies here, with the view of qualifying himself for the work of the ministry in India.

It gives us sincere pleasure to learn that your church is extending her efforts to the remote & neglected West. It is one of the evils of so rapidly increasing a population, especially when spread over such vast tracts of country, that it is almost impossible for the Church to keep pace with it in an adequate supply of the means of grace. In such circumstances the most vigorous exertion is required; & in this view of the case we cannot but feel the liveliest admiration of those excellent men who have consecrated their services to the formation of a college ~~of~~ in the West. It is also with feelings of peculiar gratification that we learn, that the churches are beginning to awaken to their duty in reference to the injured sons & daughters of Africa. Would that this *awakening* might prove real permanent & operative. If you are bound to preach the gospel, — to the slave you are bound to preach it: If America has incurred a debt to any of the family of man, — to the slave she has incurred a debt she can never liquidate. And if you as a church cannot set him free, — there is one gift you can bestow, — we cannot call it a recompense for it is his due — you can give him the gospel, — that gospel which proclaims "deliverance to the captives." — Excuse us, brethren, if we speak with warmth & believe us that our words fall far far short of our feelings. We are almost afraid to linger on the subject, but you will bear with us: & while we would not dictate to you in the matter of slave-holding & christian communion, of the difficulty of settling which, in a country in which slavery is inwrought with the whole framework of society, we have happily no experience, — we call upon you by our common humanity, by our common ruin & by the salvation which *may be* common to us all, to instruct the negro in the things which concern his everlasting peace; & in your own sphere, & to the extent of your influence, to labor & not rest till the shackles falling